

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Amend paragraph 0002 to read as follows:

[0002] U.S. Patent No. 6,241,542 and FIGS. 14(A), 14(B), 15(A) and 15(B) herein show a connector for an automotive airbag circuit. With reference to FIGS. 14(A), 14(B), 15(A) and 15(B), the connector has male and female housings 1 and 2 that are connectable with one another. The male housing 1 has a resiliently deformable lock arm 3 that moves onto a lock 4 of the female housing 2 as the housings 1, 2 are connected. A slider 5 is assembled with the male housing 1 and is held against backward movement by the deformed lock arm 3. A spring 6 is provided in the slider 5 and is compressed by a rib 7 of the female housing 2. Thus, a biasing force is accumulated in the spring 6. The biasing force of the spring 6 is released to separate the housings 1, 2 if the connecting operation is interrupted with the housings 1, 2 only partly connected.

Amend paragraphs 0023-0027 to read as follows:

[0023] FIG. 1 is an exploded front view of a female housing, compression coil springs, a slide, resilient members and a cover according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0024] FIG. 2 is an exploded plan view of the female housing, the compression coil springs, the slide, the resilient members and the cover.

[0025] FIG. 3 is an exploded rear view of the female housing, the compression coil springs, the slide, the resilient members and the cover.

[0026] FIG. 4 is an exploded section along 4-4 of FIG. 1.

[0027] FIG. 5 is an exploded section along 5-5 of FIG. 1.

Amend paragraph 0067 as follows:

[0067] The slanted surface 84a of the unlock pressing portion 84 of the movable operating portion 80 is brought into contact with the slanted surface 30a of the unlock guide 30 when the cover 40 is moved back to a specified position. Further backward movement of the cover 40 causes the unlock pushing portion 84 to push the unlock guide 30. This pushing force is translated by the slanted surface 30a into a force that pushes the rear end of the lock arm 28 down. Thus, as shown in FIG. 13(A), the lock arm 28 is displaced resiliently in the deformation direction DD to disengage the front end surface 29a of the groove 29 from the rear end surface of the lock projection 13. The locked state of the two housings 10, 20 is canceled in this way. Thus, the biasing forces of the compression coil springs 70 are released and the female housing 20 is moved back, as indicated by phantom in FIG. 13, with respect to the cover 40, the resilient members 50, the slide 60 and the male housing 10, ~~as indicated by phantom in FIG. 13,~~ and the lock arm 28 returns. At this time, the cover 40 is moved further back, taking advantage of backward-acting forces exerted on the cover 40 due to the contact of the backward-moving female housing 20 with the respective holding projections 45. As a result, the male housing 10 can be pulled apart from the female housing 20. Accordingly, the female housing 20 can be pulled apart from the male housing 10 by pulling the cover 40 back in this way. Further, the movable operating portion 80 is displaced from the inoperable position to the operable position by successively pulling the cover 40 and pressing the operable projection 83, thereby resiliently displacing the lock arm 28. Thus, separating operability is good.